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ADVANCE HOUSING CONSTRUCTION AND PUBLIC SERVICES IN USSR

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.

RSFSR

The Ministry of Housing and Civil Construction RSFSR placed 55 new schools at the disposal of 26,000 pupils at the beginning of the 1951 - 1952 academic year. These schools are located at Rostov-on-Don, Gor'kiy, Voronezh, Smolensk, Omsk, and Nal'chik, with smaller ones at Stalingrad, Khabarovsk, Omsk, Orel, Pskov, and Kerch. Two of them are in Moscow.(1)

In 1950, a total of 1,619,000 square meters of living space was constructed in Moscow Oblast. The 1951 program calls for expansion of this figure to 1,223,000 square meters; 65 schools and 124 child and medical institutions are to be completed in 1951.(2)

Of the 710,000 square meters of living space planned for construction in the city of Moscow, 500,000 have been made available for use since the beginning of 1951, (3), which is almost as many as were put into operation in the whole of 1950.(4) In the first 9 months of 1951, 5,336 houses were repaired at a cost of 236 million rubles, 17.1 percent more than for the same period last year.(5)

Educational facilities continue to expand, according to an October report. Moscow's 582 schools teach 601,000 students; in addition, institutes of higher learning and technical schools teach 193,000 students. Moscow has 85 museums, 46 movie theaters, 29 legitimate theaters, 226 clubs, and about 1,000 libraries.(6) At present, 65 kindergartens and nurseries are under construction, while the building of 24 schools is nearing completion.(7)

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Road construction and improvement has continued in the capital. In accordance with the postwar Five-Year Plan, more than 3 million square meters of road have been covered with asphalt. In 1951, more than one million square meters of streets, squares, thoroughfares, and courtyards are to be covered with asphalt. Street-cleaning machinery has been supplemented by 203 additional machines in 1951.(8) The reconstruction of the 7-kilometer stretch of the Khoroshevskoe shosse between Begovaya ulitsa and the Canal imeni Moskva has cost 34 million rubles.(9)

With the entire gasification of 11 rayon completed, 306,000 living quarters, or 75 percent of the total, now receive gas. In the last 20 years, 200 kilometers of underground heating pipes have been laid. The linking of 332 buildings to the heating network took place in the first 9 months of 1951.(10)

City transport facilities carry an increasing number of passengers each year. The following figures give percentage increases of the number of passengers carried in 1950 over 1946: subway 193.8, trolley bus 197.0, autobus 171.0, and taxi 5.2 times.(11)

There are at present 19 trolley bus lines in Moscow, with a total length of 250 kilometers. Hundreds of steel buses transport up to 1.5 million passengers a day.(12) New steel trolley lines connect busy Zastva Il'icha with flosshchad' Pryamikova and run to the settlement of Podbel'skiy. A new turnabout has been constructed at the end of the line running to Peremayskaya ulitsa in Izmaylov. The lines connecting Shcherbakovskiy and Skol'nicheskii rayons have been completed.(13)

The 65 autobus routes, which connect all parts of the capital, have a length of about 1,800 kilometers. In the first 9 months of 1951, autobuses carried 45 million more passengers than in the same period last year. Autobus routes connect the capital with Volokolamsk, Klin, Maloyaroslavets, and other towns of Podmoskov'ya. This year, 200 ZIS-155's have been added to the number of autobuses in Moscow. There are also 400 new cabs and 20 dispatcher points in the capital.(14)

Reports indicate the following construction figures for individual rayons. The 1951 plan calls for putting 13,100 square meters of living space into operation in Shcherbakovskiy Rayon; two schools, kindergartens and nurseries must also be finished. The figures for the first 8 months of this year indicate that only 38 percent, or 4,000 square meters, of living space have actually been completed.(15) In Stalinskiy Rayon, 71,000 square meters of living space were constructed in 1950. The 1951 plan calls for the completion of 83,000 square meters of living space, three schools, five children's institutions, a movie club, and a hospital.(16) An October report declares that 30,000 square meters of living space have been put into operation and that an additional 20,000 square meters have been promised for 7 November 1951.(17) Since the war, construction figures for Proletarskiy Rayon have increased yearly. In 1949, 15,300 square meters of living space were put into operation, and in 1950, 28,800 square meters. In 1951, 34,000 square meters of living space are to be put into operation.(18)

In Leningrad, 600,000 square meters of new living space have been built in the last 2 years.(19) Of the 1,236,000,000 rubles which are being spent on construction in Leningrad in 1951, 500 million alone are devoted to residential construction. Over half of the 535 residential buildings which are being built simultaneously in 1951 must be completed before the end of the year.(20) Plans call for the completion of capital repairs on 134 houses having a general area of 100,000 square meters of living space. In 1951, the citizens of Leningrad are to receive 300,000 square meters of living space.(21)

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The reconstruction of the Nevskiy prospekt was completed in 2 months. Street-car lines have been removed, the sidewalks have been doubled in width, and the underground pipes and cables have been relaid. (22) Reconstruction of the 10-kilometer Stalin prospekt, which runs from Semaya ploshchad' to Srednyaya ro-gatka, is also under way. (23) Reconstruction of a great number of bridges, such as Bol'shoy, Krestovskiy, Petrovskiy, Tuchkov and Koltovskiy mosty, has been completed since the war. Hundreds of meters of granite embankments on canals and rivers have been repaired. These efforts were increased in 1951. Many bridges, including Grenaderskiy, Pervyy, and Dretiy Elagin, have been re-paired. Between the Nevskiy prospekt and Leshtukovyy pereulok, the granite em-bankment of the Potanka River has been restored. Repairs on the Tuchnyy and Fonarniy pedestrian bridges have been finished. The granite wall of the section of the Griboedov canal embankment between Tuchnyy and Kamennyy mosty, which was laid 50 years ago, has been restored. (24)

Leningrad's public services have also undergone expansion. The section of the 25.5-kilometer-long Leningrad-Strel'na streetcar line between Vtoroy Avtov and Sosnovaya polyana should be finished on 7 November 1951. The speed of the cars operating on this line should reach 60 kilometers an hour after the instal-lation of a new substation. (25)

Leningrad buses carry up to 600,000 passengers daily. (26)

There are now 40,000 electric street lights in Leningrad. At present, over 1,000 street lights are being installed, primarily on the outskirts of town. (27) More than 800 new street lights have been completely installed since the beginning of 1951. (28) The Leningrad system has been completely central-ized and the lights are turned on and off automatically. In the postwar years, the average power of a street light has been strengthened 1.5 times. (29)

The connection of 12,000 apartments to the gas mains in the first 7 months of 1951 has brought the total number of apartments using gas to 137,000. The promise to connect 6,000 additional apartments in the near future (30) appears to be substantiated by a November report indicating that over 140,000 apart-ments in Leningrad are now supplied with gas. (31)

Plans call for putting 5,100 square meters of living space into operation in the town of Orekhovo-Zuevo in 1951. In the first 10 months of the year, 5,565 square meters of living space were put into operation. (32)

Penza has spent 112.5 million rubles for city improvements in 1951. The major portion of this sum has been devoted to residential and communal construc-tion and to improvement of the town. In the first 9 months of 1951, a total of 50,000 square meters of road have been covered with asphalt. (33)

Individual builders constructed 13,500 square meters of living space and 194 houses in Orel in 1950 and the first 8 months of 1951. A 90-apartment build-ing is going up on ulitsa imeni Stalina. The town hotel, which is under con-struction nearby, occupies an entire block. (34)

A new 15-kilometer trolley bus line is under construction in Kazan' and will connect Kirovskiy Rayon with ploshchad' imeni Kuybysheva. In the last 3 years, Kazan' trolley buses have carried more than 33 million passengers. (35)

Six new schools opened their doors in Chelyabinsk at the beginning of the school year. Thousands of square meters of living space have been put into op-eration. In addition, 144,000 square meters of road and sidewalk have been paved. (36)

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Magnitogorsk, one of the largest industrial and cultural centers of the USSR, has more than 70 schools and special secondary educational institutions, three institutes, one legitimate theater, workers' clubs, libraries, and many other cultural institutions. In the last 5 years, 290,000 square meters of living space have been put into operation.(37)

Stalingrad's industrial enterprises have been fully restored and construction on new factories is now under way. At present, there are about 150 industrial enterprises, 87 schools, 9 technical institutes, 4 institutes, 5 movie theaters, 2 legitimate theaters, 32 clubs, and 90 kindergartens.(38) The interference which a deep ravine was presenting to motor vehicle transport operating between Stalingrad and the settlement of Rynok has been eliminated. The Suykhaya Mechetka River used to flood it in the spring. An asphalt highway has been constructed along the dam which has been built across the ravine.(39)

Kuybyshev will get over 100,000 square meters of living space in 1951.(40)

Around 4,500 residential buildings have been put into operation in Omsk since the war.(41)

Irkutsk is becoming the greatest economic and cultural-political center in Eastern Siberia. It has 100 state enterprises. Although it formerly had no higher institutions of learning, now there are nine including the State University imeni Zhdanov. There are also a number of scientific research institutes, four legitimate theaters, and six movie theaters. In 1951, more than 70 million rubles were spent on city improvements.(42)

Estonian SSR

In Tallin, more than 78,000 square meters of bridge and 28,000 square meters of sidewalk have been covered with asphalt.(43)

Latvian SSR

On 15 November 1951, the Council of Ministers Latvian SSR decided to construct in Riga a 15-story, 105-meter-high building, to be called Republikanskiy Dom Kolkhoznika. The building will have a volume of 70,000 cubic meters. It will house a hotel, a lecture hall, an auditorium, studies, a conference hall for 800 people, a library, and a reading room.(44) There are also plans for building 915 individual houses in Riga in 1951.

Mezhapark, a suburb of Riga, has a new street of one-story houses called Yezermalas ulitsa.(45)

The expenditure for construction in Ayzpute in the postwar years has amounted to more than 2.5 million rubles. Over 2,000 square meters of living space have been put into operation. The town's central street, Sovetskaya ulitsa, has been covered with asphalt.(46)

Belorussia

The postwar Five-Year Plan has changed the appearance of Minsk. Of the 2 billion rubles spent for the reconstruction and development of the city's economy, 418 million rubles have gone into residential construction.(47) The restoration and reconstruction of 100 industrial enterprises has been completed. New branches of industry, such as automobile and tractor manufacture, have also been created.(48)

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In 1951, 120 million rubles were appropriated for housing construction in Minsk.(49) In the first half of 1951, Minsk received more than 17,000 square meters of living space. Over 70,000 square meters of public parks, streets, and squares were made available, and 32,000 square meters of sidewalk and bridge were covered with asphalt.(50) A November report indicates that there are about 100 new streets in Minsk.(51) Criticisms have been leveled against the progress of construction, primarily against bad organization. The city must still receive 90,000 square meters of living space in 1951.(52)

Large-scale measures have been undertaken for the construction of multi-storied buildings during the postwar years. Railroad workers have already moved into part of a ten-story building which is being built for them on Privokzal'naya ploshchad'. A similar building is being constructed next to it. The construction of five- and six-story buildings is under way on Minsk's main central street, Sovetskaya ulitsa. The construction of a six-story building and a large department store is nearing completion. A multistory house is being built on ulitsa imeni Karl Marx.(53)

Preparations are under way for enabling Minsk to be the first city in the Belorussian SSR to have a trolley bus line. The length of the first part of the line is 6.5 kilometers. Not only is the necessary quantity of wire for the overhead wires available, but more than 200 poles for supporting them have been ordered and prepared. Mechanics and drivers of the future trolley bus line are attending courses in Leningrad (54)

In the last 5 years, the restoration of Vitebsk's housing resources has cost 66,357,000 rubles. More than 700 multistory residential houses have been built in this period. Individual owners have constructed 5,000 houses. A total expenditure of 16 million rubles and the construction of 5,545 square meters of living space are foreseen for 1951.

The 1952 plans call for the expenditure of 26 million rubles for construction, of which 12,800,000 rubles are to go into residential construction and 13,200,000 into the building of schools, hospitals, kindergartens, clubs, stores etc.(55)

Ukrainian SSR

The restoration and construction of 21 million square meters of living space have taken place in the towns and workers' settlements of the Ukrainian SSR in the course of the postwar Five-Year Plan. The gasification of 130,000 living quarters, or four times more than before the war, has been completed.(56)

Since the beginning of 1951, gas has been made available to kitchens in 6,250 living quarters of Kiev. The gasification of 2,435 heating furnaces and 1,890 baths has been completed. The gasification of Kiev is continuing particularly on the outskirts of the city, in places like Darnitsa, Stalinka, and Bat'kevaya Gora. The residents of 60,000 apartments in Kiev use gas.(57)

The main road between Kiev and Kreshchatik has been restored successfully.(58)

In the postwar years, the restoration and construction of one million square meters of living space has taken place in Kharkov. About 50 multistory houses are being built in 1951. More than 25,000 square meters of living space have been put into operation since the beginning of 1951, while 100,000 additional square meters are expected to be in operation in the near future.(59)

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In L'vov, 24 gas mains will be laid in 1951 to replace the old ones and to extend the existing system. Plans call for the installation of 2,000 gas heaters in a few months.(60)

Moldavian SSR

Criticism has been directed against the course of construction in Kishinev in the last 5 years. Less than 13 million rubles have been spent on capital construction, and the city inhabitants failed to receive the planned 73,000 square meters of living space. There are more than 3 million rubles of the residential fund which were available for capital repairs that have not been used for that purpose. Only 37 percent of the 1951 plan of construction has been fulfilled, with only 1.4 percent in actual operation. Only 33 percent of the credit granted for individual construction has been used this year, while only 14 percent of the construction work has been finished.

Bad planning is considered responsible for the incomplete use of funds which is having particularly detrimental effects on the outskirts of town where the basic industries are located. Here some residents do not have water, electric power, or conveniently located stores. Communal enterprises serve existing needs unsatisfactorily and have not fulfilled their plan for the first half of 1951.

There are new buildings on the main street, ulitsa Lenina, including the "Moldova" Hotel, the City Soviet, the Main Department Store, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Trade and the Ministry of Timber Industry. Trolley buses, autobuses, and taxis travel along the street on which new stores and residential houses have been opened.(61)

Bashkir ASSR

The Ministry of Communal Economy of the Bashkir ASSR is working out plans for supplying the city of Ufa with natural gas from the Tuymazinskiy oil fields. A daily supply of 300,000 cubic meters of gas is contemplated in the beginning.(62)

Georgian SSR

New buildings are appearing on the central street of Tskhakaya. They include the City Soviet and residential houses for the workers of the rug-weaving factory, lime plant, film-lending service, and Georgian Rural Electrification Trust. Individual tenants have also built many two-story houses. Kolkhidstroy is putting up an administrative building in the center of town, and the construction of a large city hospital has begun. Mikha Tskhakaya ulitsa, Karl Liebknecht ulitsa, and other streets are being reconstructed. Plans call for future operation of local buses along the Tskhakaya-Mendzhi and Tskhakaya-Nakalakvevi lines.(63)

Azerbaydzhan SSR

The limits of the city of Baku, which occupies almost all of Aspheron, continue to expand into the southern steppe and to the islands of the Caspian Sea. Construction trusts, transport offices, the fish industry, and "Kergezneft" Trust are active in the 17th rayon, Duvanninskiy Rayon, which was added in June. The new rayon's roads are covered with asphalt, and a water pipe has been extended to the rayon from the Kura River.(64)

The construction of an agricultural tekhnikum has started in Kuba. Its 60 buildings, for which 7 million rubles have been allotted, will contain classrooms, a library, living quarters, etc.(65)

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The construction of a new water pipe, 5 kilometers long, for which 600,000 rubles have been allotted, has begun at Aydam. The date of its completion has been set for 20 April 1952.(66)

Armenian SSR

In the course of the postwar Five-Year Plan, 1,800,000 square meters of living space have been completed in urban regions of the Armenian SSR, while 15,000 homes have been rebuilt in rural localities.(67)

Uzbek SSR

Reports indicate the construction of 1.7 million square meters of living space in the towns of the Uzbek SSR, and the building of 122,000 houses in rural localities in the course of the postwar Five Year Plan. In spite of great successes in 1950 and the first 9 months of 1951, the reports say, the plan for capital construction has not been fulfilled. It is mainly the planning organizations that are held responsible for this condition. In a period of 9 months, one third of the plans had to be returned for correction and completion. The further industrialization of construction is also called for.(68)

The housing resources of Tashkent have increased by more than 200,000 square meters of living space in the course of the postwar Five-Year Plan.(69)

Kazakh SSR

In 1951, 50,000 square meters of living space should be completed in Alma-Ata.(70) Half of the 1951 plan for residential construction has not been fulfilled.(71)

Turkmen SSR

In the course of the postwar Five Year Plan, 177,000 square meters of living space have been built in the Turkmen SSR. The construction of 48,000 houses has also been completed in rural localities.(72)

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